

**Parishes Liaison Meeting  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

This briefing note covers Item 9 on the Agenda and sets out an update on the Core Strategy Examination, Placemaking Plan and Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).

**Item 9:**

**a) B&NES Core Strategy – Progress of the Examination**

- 1.1 The Core Strategy Examination remains open until the Council has received the Inspector's Report. Parish and Town Councils will be aware that the Core Strategy Examination hearings took place principally between 17/1/12 and 1/2/12 and the hearing session on the 'Duty to Co-operate' took place on 15/3/12. The key issues discussed at the hearings were outlined in a briefing note for the Parish Liaison Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
- 1.2 Following the Examination hearings the Inspector consulted on the implications for soundness of the Core Strategy of the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by the government in April 2012. Specifically the Inspector was interested to receive the views of both the Council and other interested parties on the impact of the NPPF on the housing requirement established in the Draft Core Strategy and the associated 5 year housing land supply. The Inspector's request for comments was set out in document ID/27 and the Council's response in BNES/38. Both documents can be found at the links below:  
<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20Planning/Planning/planning%20policy/Core%20Strategy/ID-27%20Inspector%20Note%20re%20NPPF.pdf>  
<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20Planning/Planning/planning%20policy/Core%20Strategy/BANES%2038%20-%20response%20on%20NPPF%20ID27.pdf>
- 1.3 Consultation on the NPPF ended on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Since that date the Inspector has been considering the issues raised and he has confirmed that he will advise the Council and other parties of the way forward on the Examination by the end of June.
- 1.4 The Examination therefore, remains open and the Inspector has not clarified the next steps at this stage. The next step could be for the Inspector to issue his Report in which he is able to recommend 'main modifications' to rectify soundness issues. However, if he considers there are substantial issues of unsoundness e.g. the need to plan for a higher number of additional homes or an inappropriate spatial strategy, he cannot recommend the solution via modifications and therefore, would not be in a position to issue his Report. All he could do is recommend the steps the Council must take to rectify the problem. This is because substantial modifications to the Strategy will need to go through statutory processes including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment and public consultation.
- 1.5 If the Inspector considers the plan is sound (with recommended modifications), the Council will need to formally consider the recommended modifications, amend the Core Strategy and adopt it.

**b) The Placemaking Plan**

- 2.1 Parish and Town Councils will be aware that the Placemaking Plan will take forward the strategic planning framework set out in the Core Strategy and comprise three main elements:

- Site Allocations: Identifying development sites and providing clear development expectations
- Development Management Policies: a key instrument for determining planning applications
- Local Designations: Providing protection for valued assets as well as allowing certain kinds of development.

2.2 Work on the Placemaking Plan is progressing. Scoping and evidence gathering in relation to both potential site allocations and Development Management policies is underway. Currently it is anticipated that an Options consultation will take place early in 2013. The Options document is an informal stage on the way towards preparing the draft Plan which it is envisaged will be published for consultation in autumn 2013. Parish and Town Councils will be involved closely in progressing work towards the draft plan, both in terms of assessing potential development opportunities and preparing the policy approach in towns and villages. In addition to involvement in preparing the Placemaking Plan opportunities to address local/neighbourhood planning issues may arise through Neighbourhood Planning (see item 5 below).